

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 11 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is amended in the present response. Paragraph 1 rejects claims 1 through 3 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Paragraph 3 rejects claims 1 through 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,234,223 to *Sakamaki* (hereinafter *Sakamaki*) in view of WO 90/11860 (hereinafter WO '860). Paragraph 5 indicates that claims 4 – 11 are allowed.

A. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants greatly appreciate Examiner's indication that claims 4 through 11 are allowed.

B. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112

Applicants have amended independent claim 1 such that the subjected matter causing the rejection has been deleted. As such, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, should be withdrawn.

C. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Applicants traverse the rejections of claims 1 through 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), for at least the reason that *Sakamaki* '223 in view of WO '860 does not disclose, teach, or suggest a chuck having a chuck body with a nose section, an axial bore formed in the nose section, and a nosepiece secured to the nose section of the chuck body, wherein an end wall of the nose section extends radially inward such that substantially all of the front face of the nose section is covered.

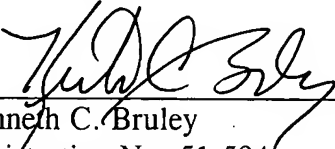
For at least the forgoing reason, *Sakamaki* '223, and WO '860 alone, or in combination fail to teach or disclose each element of independent claim 1. As such, Applicants believe that independent claim 1 is presently in condition for allowance and that the rejections should be withdrawn. Claims 2 and 3 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and further recite limitations that are allowable in their respective combinations.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action and withdrawal of the present rejections are, therefore, respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at his convenience to resolve any remaining issues. Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1196.

Respectfully submitted,

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